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FIFTY YEARS AGO

The June 1956 issue pictured the new SS Peter and Paul Church in Meriden, CT. Fr. John Mason was the pastor.

A long article gave the history of Fort Ross State Historical Monument. We wrote that the State Division of Parks and Beaches in California expected to complete the repair of the Russian Orthodox chapel "whose walls are neither parallel nor equal and with no right angles in its floor plan." Each year on July 4, services are held in the church.

Under Chronology, which was just over a column long, we noted that the Major Sobor of Bishops had requested the staff of St. Tikhon's Theological Seminary to draw up a recommended reading list for Orthodox Christians. They were to meet twice a year to keep the list current. The Sobor suggested that parishes concentrate upon starting libraries and keeping them up-to-date.

Bishop Nicholai of Ochrida had prepared a paper on Sacraments in the Orthodox Church for the 1927 Conference on Faith and Order, which was held in Lausanne, Switzerland. He discussed the Mysteries and gave Biblical references. He gives reasons why the Orthodox Church has seven mysteries not two sacraments. His conclusions are priceless!

An article on "Orthodoxy IS on the move" enumerated a surprising number of advances. It was the first time an Orthodox priest participated in the Spiritual Enrichment Week at Indiana College in Pennsylvania. Orthodox would be on KDKV-TV for 15 minutes every Sunday afternoon from April through September. Again, for the first time, an Orthodox priest opened with prayer both the State

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HOLY TRINITY (TROITSA)

Because we celebrate Holy Trinity fifty days after Easter (Pascha), we sometimes call this day Pentecost from the word Penta meaning fifty.

On this day we commemorate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, charging them with going out into the world to preach the Gospel about Jesus. We can read about this in Acts 2:1-11. The Holy Spirit, which Jesus had promised them, had come. The coming is the fulfillment of the total revelation of the Holy Trinity.

Without Pentecost and the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Giver of Life, the Church would be nothing other than a dead letter, it would know nothing other than an everlasting recycling of liturgical ritual. With the Holy Spirit, however, all things take on a new life. No wonder Pentecost is sometimes said to be the "birthday of the church."

Green is the color of the new life of Spring. We watch as the grass, trees, plants, bushes turn green. We decorate our churches and homes with branches and plants on Pentecost – the color of this new life. Our hope is to grow in the faith as we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and continue to grow until we reflect the beauty and majesty of our Creator.

LOCUST

A legume, very common in the Holy Land, is the evergreen carob or "locust-tree." Its seed pods, from 6 to 10 inches long, full of a pulp and honey-like syrup when ripe, are used as food for livestock as well as people. These were the "husks" eaten by the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:16) and probably the "locusts" eaten by John the Baptist (Matthew 3:4).

YOUR GIFT

We were given the "gift of the Holy Spirit" at our Baptism. But what we have done with that gift varies from person to person. Some have grown in spirit and use the gift, some have put it on hold, while others have driven the Holy Spirit away by their actions. Everything depends on us and how we exercise our free will.

In our daily prayers we usually include the beautiful 50th Psalm. With King David we pray: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew in me an upright spirit. Do not cast me away from Thy presence and TAKE NOT THY HOLY SPIRIT FROM ME."

King David felt strongly about loosing the Holy Spirit. He had committed a serious sin and he remembered what had happened to his predecessor King Saul. "Now the Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord troubled him." (1 Samuel 16:14). Saul had lost his fear of God, acted contrary to the will of God so the Holy Spirit left him.

There is a prayer which we say several times each day and before we undertake any task. It is said before church meetings and those who attended Russian Schools after public school learned to sing it "Caryu Nebesnhe," "O Heavenly King." The prayer was composed as part of the vespers for the Holy Day of Pentecost. It is the only prayer addressed directly and personally to the Holy Spirit. "O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth who art everywhere and fillest all things. Treasury of Blessings, and Giver of Life: Come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One." We ask the Holy Spirit to dwell (abide) in us.

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CHRONOLOGY
JUNE 2006

ACCORDING TO NEWS FROM CUBA, it was decided "to build not just a church in Havana for Cuban Russian Orthodox believers, but a large cathedral, where Russian Orthodox priests will be trained not only for Cuba, but for the whole Caribbean Basin and Latin America." The Russian Orthodox community now numbers several thousands of people and is growing.

MORE NEWS ABOUT Orthodox Pascha/Easter was found in the secular media this year. Photos and articles of Patriarchs Bartholomew of Constantinople, Theofilos of Jerusalem and Alexy of Russia were seen. Orthodox services appeared on TV.

ON PALM SUNDAY IN BULGARIA, with the approval of the Holy Synod, a blood donation campaign, under the name "Light a Candle, Give Life," was held. The Tsvetnitsa campaign was organized to "meet others pain with sympathy and to give a helping hand."

THE PATRIARCHATE OF JERUSALEM denounced the storming of their headquarters in the Old City by an Israel military unit on Tuesday, April 11. The unprecedented act was "a breach to human rights and religious freedom."

BISHOP MERCURIUS of the Moscow Patriarchate did not send out a letter to all parishes concerning adherence to the Julian (Old) calendar.

THERE WERE 101 COLLEGE STUDENTS participating in the Real Break program this year. In 2006 they participated in nine trips during Spring Break. They worked at Project Mexico and St. Innocent Orphanage in Tijuana, Mexico, Rafael House in San Francisco, CA, Holy Monastery of the Twelve Apostles in Greece, Hogar Rafael Ayau Orphanage in Guatemala, an orphanage in San Salvador, and a cleanup in New Orleans after Katrina and Rita hurricanes. For info www.ocf.net or call toll free at 800-919-1623.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX AND ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCHES met in Rome in March to work on a key concern. Both sides said that Christian groups and movements must remain active in social and political affairs, despite efforts to keep them out. They are seeking a course to combat what they see as a tendency in Europe to push religion into a corner.

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW has been invited to make an official visit to Italy's Parliament in Rome. In the past an invitation has been extended only to Pope John Paul II.

BABAS are challenged to put Titus 2 into action, mentoring younger women in the church.

THERE IS A TREND IN FICTION toward novels with Gnostic themes, inspired by the success of "The Da Vinci Code." The same phenomenon has overtaken the nonfiction charts where "The Gospel of Judas", "The Jesus Papers", "The Lost Gospel", "The Jesus Dynasty" and others are all on the New York Times bestseller list. These volumes are meant to undermine faith in Jesus of the Bible.

THE FLAG AMENDMENT, S.J. Res. 12 will be brought to a vote on the Senate floor for a vote on June 26 by Sen. Bill Frist. The amendment reads: "The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States."

A COLLECTION FOR THE BIG BELL for the Church on the Blood, which has been built on the site of the murder of the Russian royal family in Ekaterinburg, has been approved by Metropolitan Laurus.

THE PROBLEM OF INTERMARRIAGE in Judaism has grown "too large for Jewish leaders to ignore," according to 130 Orthodox rabbis from five continents who gathered in Florida to outline new approaches to interfaith marriages and conversion.

AN ENCYCLOPEDIA OF RUSYN HISTORY AND CULTURE by Paul Robert Magocsi and Ivan Pop has been revised and updated. It is available for $55 from C-RRC, Inc., 7380 SW 86 Lane, Ocala, FL 34476-7006.

THE APRIL ISSUE of The Orthodox Herald carried an article concerning the supernatural fire in Jerusalem on Holy Saturday. (The fire did appear on schedule this year.) The article stated that a VCR existed of the proceedings. If you are interested in viewing it, contact our office.

WORK BEGAN IN MAY on the Orthodox cemetery in Harbin, China, which has Orthodox graves dating from 1913. Ten years of negotiations between Russian and Chinese officials resulted in permission for the restoration.

THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH broke off bilateral contacts with the Church of Sweden after the Lutheran denomination voted to allow for the blessing of same sex partnerships.

THE HEAD OF THE RUSSIAN IMPERIAL House Maria Vladimirovna Romanova received the belated official death certificates for the members of the Imperial Family. That has put an end to the disputes about people who claimed to be descendents of Tsar Nicholas II.

YURI GAGARIN, who was the first person to travel in space (1961), was a Soviet cosmonaut who died in a plane crash in 1968. He was baptized in the Russian Orthodox Church and was a believer whose roots strongly influenced him according to Professor Valentin Petrov at Russia's Air Force Academy. According to Professor Petrov, Gagarin did not make the reference to not seeing God in space. "There are no such words in the full verbatim record of his conversation during the space flight."

(Continued from front page)
FIFTY YEARS AGO

House and Senate sessions in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. A letter was received from Governor Leader of Pennsylvania on the contributions of Eastern Orthodox people, when Orthodoxy was recognized as the fourth major faith. A very welcome notice was received from Senator Kefauver, stating that GIs would now be able to have Eastern Orthodox spelled out on their military dog tags. This was quite a victory, as prior to this time, they could choose either P, C or J. Many Orthodox worked hard for this designation, which subsequently opened up many doors for the Orthodox.

In this issue we carried the last installment of The History of the Church in America by Basil Bensin. He writes of the choirs that were formed which gained fame in the U.S. and worldwide and brought Russian Orthodox liturgical music to the attention of music schools and music lovers. This raised the question: What is this Church where this beautiful music is sung to worship God? An unusual incident was described. He states that the USSR had an exhibit at the 1939 World's Fair in New York. For some reason they dismantled the buildings and the area was designated the American Commons. The Russian anti-communists in this country wanted to do something on this area. Finally, a vesper service was served, headed by Bishop Vitaly with 22 priests and the wonderful choir of Holy Ghost Church in Bridgeport, CT, under the direction of Luke Bakoota, "For God on the spot where an exhibit was held previously declaring there was no God."

(Continued from front page)
YOUR GIFT

There is another prayer which is part of the special vespers on Pentecost. We recite it after we receive Holy Communion. Here we speak of receiving the Holy Spirit. "We have seen the true Light! We have received the heavenly Spirit! We have found the true Faith! Worshipping the undivided Trinity, who has saved us." We repeat this prayer at every Divine Liturgy because Pentecost is constant. The Holy Spirit continues to pour out gifts on us daily. What we do with these gifts is in our power.

PRESS FUND

Anna Dorozynski, Ella Dacey, Doris Koveal, Mildred Sturmer, Andrew Hudock, Helen Greco, PDcn Alexis Bona, Courtland Swift, Don Holobinko, Anita Poll, Irene Allen, PDcn John Oleynik, Ruby Crisafulli, Anonymous (2), Catherine Shaffchick, Rozalia Peters, Val and Agnes Fryntzko, Fr. Paul Waters, Hope Kleinbauer, Dee Baumgarten, Bob Cramer, Anna Tanchak, Ethel Watlock, Beth Darrah

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*Theodore and Nancy Hamilla in memory of John and Anna Galayda Hamilla, John Jr., Michael and Frances Hamilla

*Nancy Wingert in memory of her parents Helen and Metro Shafran

*Eugenia Longcrier in memory of her parents John and Helen Slutyak and brother Eugene Slutyak

*Vera Utterbach for health of her family

*Mastushka Nina Stroyen for health of graduating members of St. Tikhon's Theological Seminary

WINTER'S GRACE

The word old still may carry a lot of negative images in some people's minds. For many, to be old stirs images of senility, sickness and sleeplessness – of being relegated to the sidelines of life. Some older folks deny their aging and cling to their lost youth like young chicks cling to their shells. But nothing can stop the aging process. A person begins to age at birth.

Have you ever considered that it is possible to grow older, but not old? As we grow older, we have to cope with slowed-down reflexes, weaker vision, a slower step, a hearing impairment. "Our outer nature is wasting away." All the cosmetics and beauty creams cannot hide the wrinkles and liver spots. Didn't Jesus say, "Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?"

Yes, we grow older, but we don't age in our head and in our heart. We never age in our memories and in our enjoyment of relationships. "Our inner nature is being renewed every day." As long as we keep our hopes and dreams alive, as long as we stay involved in life, our spirits will be renewed. There shall be no wrinkles on our souls!

A minister at a wedding made a mistake when he gave the groom his marriage vows. He asked, "Will you love, honor, and cherish her as long as you shall last?" His error became a moment of truth for all older people. We should live as long as we last. We may grow older, but let us never grow old... in spirit and in activities, in memories and in love, in dreams and in relationships!

Richard L. Morgan

UNENDING TREASURE

Most Holy Mother you
bring joy to my heart.
A love that transcends
the hate and the dark.

And I thank thee for interceding
unceasingly for me.
You bring joy to my life,
glory to thee.

God crowned you with honor
and joy from above.
A blessing from heaven
descends like a dove.

Holy Theotokos you are one
of God's greatest pleasures.
Please fill us with love
and unending treasures.
Amen.

Leontis (Gary) Shaffer
Serving with U.S. forces in Iraq.
Home parish St. Michael's
in Irvona, PA.

A MIRACLE

During October and November of last year the Sitka Icon of the Mother of God, whose home is in St. Michael's Church in Sitka, Alaska was brought over to 60 churches in the U.S. so that the faithful could have the privilege of venerating and praying before it. A very grueling schedule was set up and adhered to. When the visitation tour was almost over, St. Michael's Serbian Orthodox Church and its pastor, Fr. Dragan Filipovic, begged to have the icon brought to a parish in their Akron/Canton, Ohio area. After much discussion, it was decided that a visit could be squeezed in as the last stop of the visitations.

Hundreds of people flocked to St. George Church in Canton, Ohio to greet the wonder-working icon on November 9. It was said that the peaceful gaze of the eyes of the Theotokos had led to the restored health of many of those who prayed before her. As we read in The Path of Orthodoxy in an article by Fr. Milovan Katanic: One little girl met this powerful gaze when she was brought before the icon that evening.

Mia Bogunovich is a six-year-old girl who had a very large and aggressive malignant tumor in her throat. This type of cancer is called rhabdomyosarcoma. The treatment protocol is complex, with a combination of chemotherapy and radiation and eventually the possibility of surgery. It also has horrible side effects. At one point the doctors had to stop treatments because she was ill. She had lost a lot of weight, could no longer eat, was on an IV for feeding and was extremely weak. Her parents, David and Kelly, were fearful to have Mia come into contact with people because her system was severely compromised. Even catching a simple cold could have devastating effects.

Despite the risks such a visit involved, Mia's mother and father faithfully brought her, along with her sister Kirsten, to the holy church to venerate the Sitka Mother of God Icon. Fr. Michael Oleksa, the priest from Alaska who accompanied the icon, wore a pectoral cross that holds the relics of three saints. Because Mia was very weak, Fr. Michael invited her and her family to venerate the holy icon before the Akathist service. He then, with prayers, placed the pectoral cross on Mia's throat. Popadija Kristina Tuba, who saw Mia and the family moments later as they were leaving the church, commented that her face was glowing.

It was a couple weeks afterwards that Fr. Dragan and Protinica Mira went to see Mia at her home. They were amazed at how she looked. Her eyes were bright, there was color in her cheeks, her appetite had returned, she was very active and seemed strong. Although they had their suspicions they didn't say anything. Two days after the visit, Mia and her parents met with a team of doctors to assess her condition and to see when they could continue with the treatment protocol. The MRI taken that morning saw no tumor. It had completely vanished! While the doctors were very restrained in their remarks, it was obvious that they were extremely pleased as they declared that she is in "complete remission."

"To say that her whole family is overjoyed and thankful to God and the Theotokos is an understatement," commented Fr. Dragan. "Our whole parish, who has been praying for her, is thankful as well and credits the Sitka Mother of God Icon with this miracle."

Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

GREED HOLDS THE WHIP

Some of you may have read Tolstoy's fable, "How Much Land Does A Man Need?" In that story a Russian peasant is smitten with a greed for land. Unable to obtain as much as he wishes from his old landlord, he seeks a new one, who in a freakish mood, tells him he can have as much land for his money as he can walk around before sunset. The peasant joyfully agrees, and the owner lays his cap on a knoll and bids him walk around in a circle and return to the cap before the sun sinks.

At first, our gratified peasant walks leisurely, but he soon sees a desirable bit of land and widens his circle to include it. A little further on he spies a piece that cries out for a potato crop, and he increases his pace to include that and another, and yet another. To include them all he must run, and run he does; first slowly, then with all his strength. At last, he thinks that he has enough, and notes with alarm that the sun is very low in the sky, and the cap not yet in sight. He tries to increase his pace, but his feet are torn and bleeding, his head aches, his lungs work like a blacksmith's bellows, his veins are tense and swollen, his heart thumps like an iron hammer against his ribs.

Still he makes an effort, and at last the cap is in sight! He is all but spent, every sinew is strained to the snapping point, his head swims, there is a red mist before his eyes. But suddenly the loud cheering of the spectators bursts upon his humming ears, and with superhuman effort he reaches the cap. As he reaches for it he falls down dead, the sun goes down, and he lies dead.

This is not an old tale. It still happens every day. People still drop dead in the cruel race in which greed holds the whip. But there is something else. The death of the soul comes first. When did our peasant really die the death that really mattered? Was it at the end of the race, when he sank down beside his prize? Was it during the race? At the beginning? No, in the deepest sense, he was dead when he started – only a dead soul would run in such a race.

Greed shows in other ways today. It often involves money which others have and others want.

* * * * * *

Some books are for our information; others for our inspiration; the Bible is for our transformation.

Memories

The Little Green Pill

My grandmother, Babushi, Julia Sharyk, had a heart problem in her later years of life and took a little green pill to regulate her heart murmur. She took it faithfully every day at breakfast time EXCEPT on Sundays, when it was time to go to church. She took it at lunchtime. She used to tell me that if she went "kaput" because she did not have her medicine, it was best to pass away in God's church. I always think of this when Mrs. Anna Vakulchik (a dear friend of our family) and I "down our vitamins" from our pill bottles with our coffee in the social hall at Coffee Hour time.

As Orthodox Christians we know it's best to fast from ANYTHING, no food or water from midnight on – until we receive the holy sacrament, the body and blood of Christ at liturgy the next day. That is a wonderful blessing we want to have in our bodies for healing as we experience true communion with God at the precious moment we are at the church altar. I am so grateful that Orthodoxy has NOT changed this ruling on fasting. I am grateful for my grandmother and both of my parents' examples of fasting in their own lives and they have taught me to do the same and hold it sacred to my heart.

Anita (Sherby) Anderson

Holding Hands

I recall our wedding day, June 29, 1963, when the blessing of our hands on the Book of Gospels underneath the stole vestment of our priest, Fr. John Zeleniak, my soon-to-be pronounced hubby Richard, laid his hand on mine, squeezed it and winked at me as our ceremony was being conducted. Oh yes, we held hands during our courtship but that particular time is especially meaningful to me because it was our matrimonial day, when we became man and wife, and I cherish that touch on my hand. In fact, it was so spontaneous and boyish that when I think about it I smile and hold dear that memory. Since then, many times over the nearly 40 years of marriage, we have held hands; and just this past year while in the hospital with coronary problems, Richard held my hand each night as we passed the hours away. It was so meaningful, even without a word spoken, to have his hand caress mine, making me feel so loved, so secure, taking all the fears and cares away. Since then, many nights we just hold hands before falling asleep. It's a beautiful way of silently saying "I love you." If only couples in love would realize how fortunate they are to be blessed with the miracle of holding hands. A simple touch that warms one's heart and says I love you......

Barbara Powell

YOUR SPIRITUAL TEMPERATURE

After the apostles were baptized with the Holy Spirit and with fire (Acts 2:3-4) on Pentecost, they went about lighting fires in others. We read in Acts 2 that they immediately baptized 3000 souls. They were on fire! They were passionate in their love for Jesus. When they prayed aloud, many were kindled by their zeal. It takes a spark or a fire to kindle a fire! A Christian is not a Christian until he has met one and his fire has touched him.

Each of us is a flame, we have been illuminated by the Holy Spirit in our baptism. We should carry with us the light and the warmth of the presence of God. We bring it with us to church and we carry it back out of the church into the world. The real lights in our church are not the votive lights, the candles, nor the chandeliers for they are but wax or electricity, but we who receive Jesus within us and are touched by the fire of the Holy Spirit. For we pray "come and abide in us." When we leave church to go back into the world, we should be aflame with His divine love.

Perhaps, we should have spiritual temperature check every so often. St. John said: "Your Lord is fire, do not let our heart be cold, but burn with faith and love." How can we know if our temperature is within norms? We are told in Revelations 3:15-16: "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth."

BIBLE QUIZ

1. Who plotted the execution of John the Baptist?
2. The Ethopian eunuch that Phillip witnessed to was the servant of what queen?
3. Whose wife brought Daniel's gift of prophecy to her husband's attention?
4. What Jewish girl became queen of Persia?
5. What queen traveled far to meet Solomon face to face?
6. What Baal-worshipping princess led Ahab into idolatry?
7. Who became David's wife after her husband, Nabal, died?

ANSWERS:
1. Herodias, wife of Herod (Matthew 14:3-8)
2. Candace (Acts 8:27-38)
3. Belshazzar's (Daniel 5:10)
4. Esther (Esther 2:17)
5. The queen of Sheba (1 Kings 10:1)
6. Jezebel (1 Kings 16:31)
7. Abigail (1 Samuel 25:39)

A SUMMER FAST

Fasting in the Orthodox Church is often misunderstood. It is a discipline. It is a part of our struggle to become God-like. We accompany fasting with prayer and good works. They are spiritual aids in this struggle. From earliest times, the Church has prepared her faithful with prayer and fasting. One example is the SS Peter and Paul fast which starts eight days after Pentecost. Both saints had prepared themselves for the coming of the Holy Spirit by prayer and fasting. We are urged to follow their example.

Some people find it confusing. The length of this fast varies from none at all to six weeks. The reason for this is that two cycles are involved: the moveable day of Pascha and the set date of their commemoration June 29/July 12.

SOBORNOST
ECUMENICAL COUNCILS

The Criterion of Ecumenicity

At this point one may ask, what criteria determine or guarantee or confirm the "ecumenicity" of a council... what separates those particular councils from all the others? To this the theology of *sobornost* responds in a typical apophatic manner by rejecting a number of possible criteria.

First of all, the number of bishops present at a council does not insure its ecumenicity. The Council of Rimini-Seleucie (359) was composed of 560 bishops, more than the combined number at the First and Second Ecumenical Councils. The iconoclastic council of Hieria (754) with its 338 bishops had also more prelates present than a number of the accepted Ecumenical Councils.

Nor does the geographic distribution of the bishops and their representative character determine the ecumenicity of a council. Few Western bishops were present at the Council of Ephesus, yet it is accepted as "ecumenical." On the other hand, the Councils of Rimini-Seleucie and Ferrara-Florence (1438-1439) contained a much wider geographic distribution and representative character, and they are not accepted as "ecumenical" by the Orthodox Church.

Even the belief of the particular Council itself is not a determining factor. Many councils have explicitly proclaimed themselves as "ecumenical" and have not been received as such by the Church. On the other hand, it is not certain that the Council of Constantinople in 381 ever considered itself as "ecumenical," according to Bishop Kallistos Ware.

One of the first steps taken by each of the Ecumenical Councils was to ratify the decisions of the preceding ones. This is an important step in the process of "reception" of a council by the Church in its entirety, but it is not a sufficient criterion in itself...false councils have accepted and ratified earlier Ecumenical Councils.

Despite his convocation of each council, the recognition of the emperor is not the determining factor either. Councils have been confirmed by emperors, and yet were rejected by the Church (Rimini-Seleucie, Hieria, etc.).

What about a council's recognition by the pope? Surely the authority of a council does depend on its being the true voice of the episcopal and ecclesial consensus; hence, the importance of the approval by Rome, whose "priority" in Church affairs was recognized in the East through much of the first millennium. But this in itself is also not decisive in the theology of *sobornost,* because Orthodox ecclesiology does not isolate the pope from his brothers in the episcopate and from the whole Body of the Church. This is why Ferrara-Florence is not regarded as "ecumenical" in spite of its approval by both the pope and the emperor.[175]

In fact, there is no single criterion or list of criteria that insures automatically the ecumenicity of a council or its subsequent "infallibility." It is simply a matter of the "acceptance" or "reception" of such by the whole Church after the fact.

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Undique (from everywhere)

The Sunday after Pentecost (June 18) is dedicated to the memory of All Saints. It is placed right after Pentecost to remind us of what the power of the Holy Spirit can do in our lives.

There are times when our hurts and fears can close our ears to the hopeful words of God. But the Lord doesn't stop speaking to us when it's hard for us to hear. He continues working on our behalf.

Not many are brought to the faith by our correct understanding of doctrine. As the saying goes, "Being right is not enough." What will attract the world to Orthodoxy is the same thing that has always attracted people to the Church: the beauty of our worship and the holiness of our lives.

The Church is a special place filled with the grace of God. Beachwear and some types of clothes are inappropriate to wear. Among them are shorts, skirts above the knees, clothing that bares the arms, shoulders or midriff, T-shirts (especially with slogans), blue jeans.

We may recite the Creed, but do we realize that we are testifying about what we believe? Do you believe that God made everything? Do you believe that Jesus died and then came back to life?

If we revise our traditions too drastically to fit more comfortably to American lifestyle, will we come up short?

Will you wear green on Pentecost Sunday (June 11)?

In the back of the church (the entrance) we enter a small room like area which is called the narthex. This area is assigned to catechumens, those who are learning about the faith but are not yet baptized, and for people who are under penance and so do not have the privilege of entering the main church.

Origen said: "For every person there are two attending angels, one of justice and the other of wickedness. If we have good thoughts, an angel of the Lord is speaking to us...if the thoughts of our hearts are turned to evil, an angel of the devil is speaking to us."

Editor's Notes

I attended a conference on Evangelism where we were told to go through the Book of Acts and underline the word Spirit every time it appeared. It was an easy assignment for I found 61 references to the Spirit in the first 21 chapters. Truly the Books of Acts is full of the Spirit. No wonder Christianity spread throughout the known world. It's early adherents were full of the Spirit even though they were beset with many of the "people" problems we face today in our parishes.

As we continued further into the study, we found that the Holy Spirit played a large part in evangelism. He showed up with remarkable new gifts for the early disciples, which gave them the courage to do their job. He guided them as they chose new leaders from among the most surprisingly unlikely kind of people. He introduced them to people who needed to hear the good news about Jesus and led them into places where they wouldn't have dared to go.

But above all, the Spirit was there when they were going through the usual problems in an organization. He was there when they fought over where he was leading them and even about the job they were given. But most of all the Spirit kept reminding them, these first Christians, that the only reason they were called to the Church in the first place was to take the Good News "to the ends of the earth."

We are reminded of all this when we hear the lengthy three prayers at the Vesper Service on Pentecost. I would advise you to get a copy of these prayers and read them thoroughly. And let us pray the prayer of Pentecost asking for the Holy Spirit to "come and abide in us." We still need his guidance and comfort.

We are having a problem with distribution. Please let us know if you don't receive your packet or individual copy by the second Sunday of the month. We are trying to locate the glitch.

Now that the beautiful weather here in the northeast tempts us all to spend more time out-of-doors, let us pray that "Almighty God, Who has laid the foundation of the earth, may enlighten our eyes that we may see His Hand and His love in the beauty that surrounds us: in the wonders of nature and the faithfulness of family and friends.

God Be With You,

Matushka Nina

YOU ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN

You ascended into heaven,
to sit at the Father's right hand.
Forty days after Your rising,
You returned to join the Father.
High atop the Mount of Olives,
You have Your parting instructions.
The disciples awed by the sight
saw two angels dressed in white.
Mary saw with the eleven
Your Ascension into heaven.
A bright cloud carried You away
on this holy sacred feast day.
O prepare a place for us
in the mansions of the just.
You will not leave us orphaned
but the Paraclete will comfort.
Though ascended You still remain
On the altar, we do proclaim:
You will return just as You said
to judge the living and the dead.
O Jesus, Mighty Savior
Son of God, our Redeemer,
Send the Spirit as You promised
to renew and save us.

Raymond Mastroberte

UNDIQUE

The tribulation is a period during the end times when evil will be running wild before God triumphs over Satan. Jesus spoke of this time in St. Matthew 24:21: "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be."

The time of persecution that is spoken of in Revelation 7:14 is called the "great tribulation." Some people theorize that the tribulation is already here.



I received this recipe from a reader who wrote that his grandparents were from Austria-Hungaria. They were from an area now part of southern Poland near the German border. His grandparents first lived in a city in New Jersey but eventually moved to a farm in Ohio. His baba made this salad often and served it to the many visitors she had in the summer.

When I tested the recipe, I found it similar to the Hot Potato salad so popular in German cooking. The addition of kolbasi was a nice touch that Baba picked up somewhere.

HOT POTATO AND KOLBASI SALAD

5 medium sized potatoes, unpeeled
2 Tbls. oil
1 lb. polish sausage, sliced 1/2 in. thick
1 medium onion, chopped
1 green pepper, chopped
1 clove garlic, finely chopped
1/3 cup red wine vinegar
1/3 cup chicken broth
1 teas. salt
1 teas. pepper
1 teas. parsley, chopped

Boil potatoes approximately 30 min. until done when tested with tip of knife. Drain, let cool slightly, then peel. Cut into bite-sized cubes and place in large serving bowl. Cover to keep warm.

In large skillet, heat oil. Add kolbasi, stir frequently. Brown lightly. Remove from fire. Add to potatoes.

In same skillet, saute onion and green pepper until crisp tender. Add garlic, vinegar, broth, salt, pepper and parsley. Bring to boil. Continue simmering for 1 minute.

Pour mixture over potatoes. Toss lightly. Serve warm.

VARIATIONS: My taste testers suggested using steamed hot dogs. Another said ham would be good; while a third suggested adding a bit of celery seed.

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FATHER'S DAY

Amid the celebration, there was tragedy. It was the opening ceremonies of the 1992 Summer Olympic Games in Barcelona. One by one the teams entered the stadium and paraded around the track to the cheers of 65,000 people. But in one section of Olympic Stadium, shock and sadness fell as Peter Karnaugh, father of United States swimmer Ron Karnaugh, was stricken with a fatal heart attack.

Five days later, Ron showed up for his race wearing his dad's hat, which he carefully set aside before his competition began. Why the hat? It was the swimmer's tribute to his dad, whom he described as "my best friend." The hat was one his dad had worn when they went fishing and did other things together. Wearing the hat was Ron's way of honoring his dad for standing beside him, encouraging him, and guiding him. When Ron dove into the water, he did so without his dad's visible presence but inspired by his memory.

Lord, thank you for fathers. Please give them guidance on the hard decisions. May they act in such a way that their children will feel wanted, needed and an important part of the family. And, most of all, help them set an example of Christian values for them to follow.

The best fathers not only give us life – they teach us how to live.

* * * * * *

When others come to you for advice, they do not necessarily expect you to solve their problem, but to listen to them.

Home Bible Reading Schedule

JUNE 2006

1. Acts 1:1-12	16. Rom 2:14-29
2. Acts 19:1-8	17. Rom 1:7-12
3. Acts 20-7-12	**18. Heb 11:33-12:2**
4. Acts 20:16-18, 28-36	19. Rom 2:28-3:18
	20. Rom 4:4-12
5. Acts 21:8-14	21. Rom 4:13-25
6. Acts 21-26-32	22. Rom 5:10-16
7. Acts 23:1-11	23. Rom 5:17-6:2
8. Acts 25:13-19	24. Rom 3:19-26
9. Acts 27:1-44	**25. Rom 2:10-16**
10. Acts 28:1-31	26. Rom 7:1-13
11. Acts 2:1-11	27. Rom 7:14-8:2
12. Eph 5:9-19	28. Rom 8:2-13
13. Rom 1:1-7, 13-17	29. Rom 8:22-27
14. Rom 1:18-27	30. Rom 9:8-10
15. Rom 1:28-2:9	

BIBLE STUDY

Attar of Roses, a fragrant oil, is one of the most valuable products of Bulgaria and is heavily taxed for export. A tourist, unwilling to pay the duty, sought to evade customs by concealing two vials of the precious fluid in his suitcase. Apparently a little of the perfume had somehow spilled in his suitcase. By the time he reached the train station, the aroma was emanating from the luggage, declaring the presence of the hidden treasure. It was a sure giveaway! The authorities had no difficulty in finding the contraband and immediately confiscated the costly souvenirs.

In many places in the Bible, Jesus instructs someone not to tell what He has done. But, the Lord Jesus could not be hidden. Crowds were constantly mobbing Him to hear His words of wisdom, to benefit from His deeds of mercy or healing, and to derive help from His loving compassion.

After He ascended to His Father (An event we celebrate on June 1 this year), Jesus' influence continued in the lives of His disciples. The populace "marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus." (Acts 4 :13) Their deportment and their attitude marked them as His true followers.

Does your deportment and attitude mark you as a follower of Christ? Is the love of Christ so obvious in your life that those who know you realize that you are a follower of the One who "could not be hidden?" (Mark 7:24)

The fragrance of Jesus' influence on your life cannot be hidden for like the Attar of Roses it will be easily detected.

LIGHTER MOMENT

An elderly couple had dinner at another couple's house, and after the meal, the wives left the table and went into the kitchen. The two men continued talking, and one said, "Last night we went out to a new restaurant. I highly recommend it."

"Which restaurant?" the other man asked.

The first man thought and thought, and finally he said, "What's the name of that flower you give to someone you love? You know, the one that's red and has thorns?"

"You mean a rose?"

"Yes, that's the one," the man exclaimed. He then turned toward the kitchen and yelled, "Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?